A FAITHFUL WARNING, WITH GOOD ADVICE FROM ISRAEL'S GOD, TO Englands KING AND HIS COUNCIL;

That they may wisely improve this little Inch of time which the God of their Life as yet affords unto them, before the Day of their [approaching] Misery come upon them.

Which may serve as a Caution to all others in Authority within the Nation.

Sounded through one of the Mourners in *Sion*, known by the Name of *Martin Mason*.

Hear ye, and give ear, be not proud, for the Lord hath spoken.

London, Printed for *Robert Wilson*, at the sign of the *Black-spread-Eagle* and *Wind-mill*, in *Martins le Grand*.

A FAITHFVL WARNING, WITH GOOD ADVICE FROM *Israel's GOD, to England's KING* AND HIS COUNCIL, &c.

BEhold, to *obey* is better than *sacrifice*; and to *hearken*, is better than the *fat of Rams*. *Listen* therefore, and encline your ear, be attentive, and read without prejudice: For the Righteous God hath laid it upon me *once more* to warn the Men in Authority, the Rulers of this Nation, even from Him that sits upon the *Throne*, to the inferior Governors of the people, that they cease from their iniquities, and fear the living God.

Know ye therefore, [illegible] hath the love of God been towards you, and with wonderful [illegible]-kindness hath he visited you: his patience verily is beyond expression: For your iniquities have highly provoked him: How many *Warnings* hath he given you, all which hitherto have been but little regarded by you? O let his righteous witness in all your Consciences arise, and it will testifie the wonderful Mercies of your Maker towards you. Have you answered the End and Requirings of the Lord from you, in his Overturning your Enemies for you, and thus setling the Government of the Nations upon you? Came you not in without any *Conquest*? Can you justly glory in your own strength, that it was your own Arm that hath done this for you? VVas it your own

Valour that vanquished your Enemies? Or is it not the hand of the Lord that hath thus exalted you, and abased them that had the Government before you? I say, Have you answered the Requirings of the Lord? Let his witness be awakened, and arise in all your Consciences, and answer to me. Did he lay no injunction upon you when his heart was enclined to exalt you? Did he not enjoin you to amendment of life, to shew *mercy*, to *glorifie your Maker*, to be *Patterns of Piety*, and *good Examples to the people*; to let *mercy*, *truth* and *righteousness* live amongst you, and be exercised by you towards the people who are now fallen under you, to shew favour to the righteous, to help the helpless, and to remedy the wrongs of the poor and needy; to suppress *Vice* and *Vanity* in *Court*, *City* and *Countrey*, to be *a terror to evil doers*, *and a praise and encouragement unto them that do well*? And have none of you in the time of your distress promised to the Lord the performance of these things? Did the Lord (I say) set you upon the throne, and thus restore you to outward Dignity, when you seemed to be going down into the place of forgetfulness, when you had little hopes to have such a Day without a secret enjoining to these things? Did he give you the desire of your hearts, onely to be revenged of your Enemies, and to aggravate and multiply the miseries of his people? If his witness were awakened in your Consciences, surely you would say, *Let God be justified, and sinful man condemned.*

Oh my Friends, how have you trifled away God's precious time, and your own *Deliverance!* How hath *Vice* and *Vanity* abounded in the *Nation* since the *Day* of *your Exaltation* in *England*? Does not *Iniquity*, *Pride* and *Luxury* Lord it *amongst you* both in *Court*, *City* and *Country*, with an *impudent forehead*? Is not *Prophaneness* countenanced *by you*? Are not the *wicked* and *ungodly* had in estimation *with you*? Do not the *unrighteous* boast in *your strength*? And hath not *your Horn* exalted them throughout the *Nation*? Are not the *Merchants of Babylon* grown familiar *with you*, and the *Sons of Belial* advanced by you? Or is there any people receive such favour from you as the *Rotten Interest*, who are now *indulged by you*? What's become of *Sion*? Are you acquainted with her? Do you minister *true comfort* to her? Is she advanced or discountenanced in *your Court* and the *Kingdom*? Are you *true Subjects* to *Sion's King*? Rules he as [illegible] in the *Kingdom of your Hearts*? Do you know Him, and pay Tribute [illegible]? Do you observe His *Laws*, *Statutes*, and *Ordinances*? Do you own His *Light* in all *your Consciences* to be *your Leader*, *Judge*, and *Law-giver*? Oh happy were *England* had she such a *King*, and happy were *Englands King* had she such *Counsellors*?

But alas! alas! *Sion* is in the *Dust*, and no man regards her; her Enemies now seem to be too many for her, and make themselves merry over her: They who should be as *Nursing Fathers* to her, withdraw their affections from her: she sits weeping in the House of Mourning, for the misery that is coming upon this people, while the Drunk-

ards of *Ephraim* turn themselves with Wine, and intoxicate their Brains with strong Drink, and the greedy Shepherds devour the silly Flock, and the *lustful ones* love to have it so; while the Priest and people conspire together against the Lord and his annointed Jewels, to stop the Mouth of truth, and fill their prisons with innocent people: Yet can they not center here, *Mordecai's seed* is a great Mote in the *Devils Dish*, which the *old Dragon* seeks to devour by some *unrighteous Decree* from *Cæsar*: For the Crown they count sure of their side, and that's the *top stone* of *Egypts strength*. To the *Refuge of lyes* they now betake themselves, and by their *Majestical Craft* do abuse both their *Prince* and the *Countrey*, *Cum privilegio*, and all for want of a good understanding.

For would but *Cæsar* and his Council stop their ear to their *trencher-Chaplains*, and the alluring Inchantments of such *devouring Monsters*, who seek to subvert and murther the Innocent: I say, would but the King and his Council once be perswaded to come into calmness, and take counsel of God's ORACLE, the LIGHT in their *Consciences*, and by it be guided, how soon would the dark misty Fogs of *Egypt* and her *Magicians*, be dispel'd, and driven back into the bottomless pit. No *croaking Frogs* durst then come forth to abuse the *Honour* of a *Prince*, nor wound his Reputation by enticing him to Cruelty, nor screw his Prerogative above the peoples tranquility: For the End of all Government appointed by God next to his Glory, is *the good of the people* *. For the *great God of Heaven and Earth so loved the world*, *that he sent his Son a light into the world, not to destroy mens lives, but to save them*: yet to punish the evil-doer according to the nature of his crime, but not with Imprisonment, Death or Banishment for every small offence, much less for that which is no offence at all.

* *Salus Populi suprema Lex.*

For what ever is not *Malum in se*, an evil in it self, ought rather to be *indulged*, then so severely punished. For a man to be covered with his *Hat* before *Authority*, is no evil in it self, though falsly so counted by the evil ambitious one: Nor for a man to be honestly employed upon your Popish Festival-dayes, is not sinful or evil in it self, though sinners rashly so judge it, and wrongfully imprison the righteous for bearing their testimony against it. Nor is the Conscientious refusing of an Oath, an *Evil in it self*: For Christ the Oath of God expresly commandeth, *Swear not at all*; and therefore it is (must of necessity be) an evil in him that punishes the Innocent for not violating the Law of God, with imprisonment (at pleasure) and loss of Estate. Far be it from the sons of Innocency to plot or confederate against the person of a Prince; and as far be it from them by stooping to the will of man, to violate the Law of the living God, and it should be far from the Prince to punish such a people for not transgressing the Command of Christ. And did not our adversaries answer us with more rashness, rage and raw arguments, then good reasoning, concerning

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out not swearing; if *sic vobis sic jubeo, sit pro ratione voluntas*, were not too predominant with them, we should not in that particular receive such hard measure from them.

Men placed in *Authority*, should rule for God, and ought to have his Eye within his Head; his mind (I mean staid upon the Light of *Israel*, God's witness placed in his soul, and read and meditate in that Book day and night, even all the days of his life: And this is not *durus sermo*, a hard saying, but a *well-doing*. This was that made *David* honourable, and *a man after God's own heart*, and *Solomon* his Son, the wisest King that ever sate upon a throne.

O that *England*'s King and his Council would *summo conatu*, seek after true wisdom, which if any man want, let him ask it of God: the way to find it, is to beg for it, of him alone who hath the disposal of it: the King of *David*, the God of *Solomon*, who dwells in the Light *which enlightens every man that comes into the world*: His wisdom is to be prized more then Gold, she is of more worth to a Prince then Pearls or Rubies: Cabinets of Jewels are not to be compared to her, and glistering Diamonds come too short of her: the tongue of Men and Angels cannot sufficiently commend her: the high and lofty are not worthy of her: 'Tis the sons of Innocency that have right unto her, and the children of the Day that are adorned by her: Rough *Esau*'s Birth is a stranger to her, and must not have the Honor to be acquainted with her: that brood for a mess of pottage would sell their Birth-right, and abandon her: 'Tis onely smooth *Jacob*, or valiant *Israel*, who wrestles with his God as a Prince (who in his heart affects her, and fixes the delight of his soul upon her, and as the Jewel of his God does honour her) that is worthy of her: On him must the blessing come.

And have not *England*s King and his Senators need of such a Counsellor? Is not this *WISDOM* worthy to be enquired of by them? Or are they wise enough to do well without her? the wisdom of this world is not to be compared unto her.

For if that muddy thing
Could honour ENGLAND'S KING,
He and His COUNCIL *have a spring.*
But that poor Toy
Gives no true joy:
'Tis WISDOM *from above,*
Comes from the GOD *of* LOVE,
That satisfies the humble mind,
And doth the proud in Fetters bind.
Come then O ENGLAND'S KING,
Drink at pure WISDOM'S *spring,*
And you His COUNCIL *turn your eyes,*
To Israel's LIGHT *if you'l be wise.*

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For know this from the Lord, never had King more need of wise Councel, nor such a Council more need of a wise King, then you have at this season. Alas poor Mortals! whither are you posting in the dark? Hold in the Reins, and curb those pamper'd Steeds that carry you so swiftly (as it were on the wings of the wind) down into the Gulf of endless misery. Stop poor men; dismount, dismount, ride on no further; repose your selves, and deliberate a little season: see if you can come to a little rest; retire your selves within, come into your Bed-chamber, commune with your own hearts, and be still: Listen and incline your ear to that still voice of the righteous God, that gently calls upon you in your Counsciences, and counsels you to shew mercy, and use moderation, that reproves for sin in the heart. Come I say, to the cross of Christ, O ye *Great Council* of the Kingdom, and all that are in Authority in this Nation, and know a bridle to your *lusts*: Learn of the *Lamb of God*, and of his *Light* which he hath placed in your Consciences, to be *meek* and *lowly*; let your minds sink down unto, and center in the *Seed of Life*, which lyes low *in* you all, that *Babe of Glory* who lies in the *Manger*, and all this time hath had no room in the *Inn*. Mind (I say) the breathings of that *innocent Babe* within you; observe the sweet sound of his voice who never sinn'd, who yet calmly reproves you when you sin against him; obey his commands; *his yoke is easie, and his burthen light*: He will counsel you to part with nothing that is worth your possessing, *Vice* and *Vanity*, with all manner of *iniquity* and *lust*, are loathsome to him, for these he is angry with you, yet in the Light he is willing to be reconciled to you: Lo, how he calls upon you in his love, and shews pity towards you. Ah how like a tender Father does he bear with you! How long hath his *Mercy* spared you! How unwilling is he to enter into judgement with you, would you but turn unto him at his reproof! Nothing will he require of you, but what would be exceeding good for you, (which indeed is a duty lies upon you; and were you but willing, he would give you *power* to perform) *to honor him that made you, by believing and walking in the light*. Believe in him who in the secret of your hearts lets you see when you are entering into, or have committed any sin, or are hatching mischief in your hearts against the innocent: Believe that *Voice* to be the *Voice of God*, the *Light in your Consciences*, and give up your selves unto it, and be guided by it, keep friendship with it; forsake all that which is reproved by it, and follow the *Light* whithersoever it leads you; if it lead you through the *Cross* to your *carnal minds*, out of *sin*, out of *mire* and *dirt*, into the path of *purity* and *holiness*; out of *passion*, into *patience*, out of *pride* into true *humility*; out of *hatred*, into *hearty love*, (O *blessed change*, if you were willing to be changed by it! out of *revenge*, to a *free forgiveness*; out of *folly* or *worldly wit*, into *Divine Wisdom*. Who would not go after such a Guide! Who would not serve such a *Noble Lord*, that sends not his servant upon any service by himself alone, but goes along with him, or rather [illegible] him, and is a *Guide* unto him! What he commands him to do,

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he onely requires the *heart*, a willing mind, and does the thing himself, or gives *power* to perform it. Such a Lord is *Israel's God*, all the gods of the Heathen are not to be compared unto him. He calls, *My Son give me thy heart*; and, *Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden with the load of your iniquities, and I will give you ease.* O Golden promise of a gracious God! which he freely performs to all his people: *To as many as receive him*, (and believe in him, and are willing to be guided by him, to leave Lust, and walk in the Light, which makes war against it) *he gives power to become the sons of God*: [mark] to these he gives power to become the Sons of God. *O bountiful God! O merciful King of Saints, worthy of all honour, glory, and everlasting praises: thou gives power to those that have rebelled against thee, and have been traytors to thee, to be at peace with thee; yea, to become thy children upon their submission to thee: 'Tis thou righteous God works all our good works for us, and in us, and then accepteſt of thine own.* Here is a pattern for all Princes and great ones to forgive your Enemies. O! let Revenge live no longer in you, but be buryed in the grave of Eternal forgetfulness: Let the *Immortal Witness of God* arise in the *Court of your Conscience*, that *Love* and *Innocency* may live, and the contrary Nature dye.

'Tis time, yea high time for every individual of you to turn your minds to God's gracious gift, his Light in your Consciences, that all *Arbitrary Power* and *Oppression* may be turned out of your hearts, that bitterness of spirit may no longer live, or burn in your hearts. O beware, beware of the spirit of Revenge, and down with all Idolatry and Idolatrous Superstition; for *Dagon* cannot, nor must not stand before the Ark of God. O come to the Grace of God in your own particulars, you that are the *Council* to *England's King*, and you inferior Officers: Come I say, and receive the wholesom instructions of that Divine ORACLE of God in your *Consciences* which brings salvation with it (to all that are willing to be saved by it, and love the *Light* better then their *lusts*) which beats down the Devils Kingdom, and teaches, and will teach you (be you but willing to be taught by it to deny *ungodliness and all worldly lusts, Pride, Arrogancy, Scorn, Frowardnesse, Covetousnesse, vain-idle-talk, Drunkennesse, Swearing, Passion, Cruelty, Luxury, and all superfluity of Naughtiness, Revenge, Hatred, Malice*: these are all ungodliness, and makes that man who lives in the commitment of them, unlike to God. You being willing to bear the reproof of the Lord for these, and what other sins your hearts are addicted to, and in love withall, you being willing to part with these whorish lovers, base lusts, who have stoln away your hearts, and separated you from your God, the Light of God in your consciences which testifies against these things, that they are evil, will beget in you a dislike and loathing of all these filthy, noisome lusts which defile the soul, because they grieve the holy Spirit of the righteous God, and then you will see every sin (as it is) to be ugly: *Pride* to be an evil seed which the Enemy hath sown in the heart: *Riotousness, Luxury, Lust, Revenge, Swearing,*

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Drunkenneſs, and the like, to be all *fruits* of the *Devil's begetting*, generated in the heart of man in the time of darkneſs and ignorance: Then ſhall you ſee the wrath of God due to that Nature which delights to wallow in ſuch *miry wickedneſs*; ſo ſhall you come to know the *holy fear* planted within you, that when the Tempter comes to aſſault you, he canot enter upon you. The *faithful Souldier* and *follower of the Lamb* is kept upon his *Watch*; he ſees the *Thief* comes to rob and ſteal the heart from the Lord, but conſents not to the *Thief*, but reſiſts the Tempter, who then flies from him; *He dares not do ſuch a wickedneſs, and ſin againſt his God.* This would be a bleſſed Condition, and happy are all they that are found therein.

And verily my friends, it is high time that you meet the Lord by unfeigned Repentance, and forſaking of your ſins; for his wrath is kindled againſt you, becauſe *your hearts are not right before the Lord.* How long, Ah how long have you ſought to hide your Counſels from the Lord, and to *beguile the Children of the Light*, and deceive the Simple with fair ſugred words, when the poyſon of Aſps hath been under your tongue! but the Sons of Wiſdom, the true children of the day have not been deceived by you.

Think you the Lord is well pleaſed with you? Can you be perſwaded that he ſees you not, or that he reveals not your vanity and ſubtilty to his Seed? Or do you believe that he winks at your wickedneſs, and will not viſite for all your iniquity? O be not ſo fooliſh and unwiſe; for verily ſuch as you ſow, ſuch ſhall you reap; and if you perſiſt in your obſtinacy againſt the Lord, and withſtand the Day of your viſitation; if you will ſtill run on in the race of iniquity, and caſt the Teſtimony of his Law behind you; if you will let your minds ſtill purſue the pleaſures of this world, and prefer the tranſitory things of this life before your ſouls peace; if you will count worldly gain to be godlineſs; if you will ſpeak ſmooth things to your King, deceitfully, and counſel him to rejoyce and make merry over God's Witneſs in his Conſcience, as if he ſhould never come to judgement; if you will lend your ear to the *Charming Sorceries* of the *Hireling Prieſts*, the *Engliſh Rabbies*, who now are doting upon *Romes Trash* and *Trumperies*, who *Preach for hire, and Divine for money, and Prophecy lies unto the People*; who chiefly *ſeek for their gain from their quarter*, and greedily hunt for the *Golden Fleece*, but profit not the Flock, but leave them as they found them, (if not worſe) *ever learning, but never able to come to the knowledge of the Truth*; if you will make Covenant with death; and confederate with *Amalek* in his cruel Conſpiracy againſt the Innocent; if you will be one with *Haman* in helping the wicked one to obtain the help of *Cæſar* againſt the Helpleſs; if you will involve your ſelves into that curſed League, and bind your ſelves (as it were) with an Oath againſt the Innocent; if you wil be on the Serpent's ſide againſt the Seed of the Woman, and ſtrengthen the hands of the bloody Shepherds who ſeek to devour and woory Chriſt's ſheep; if you will give

your power to the false *Prophet*, and let him ride upon you, and make you his Vassels to afflict and torment the Innocent; if instead of helping the *Woman* against the *Dragon*, who is now casting out the flouds of his Wrath and mischeif against the Lambs of Christ, and help the *old Dragon* to cast the harmless into nasty Holes, Caves, and *Prisons*; If you will not quit your selves like men of Honour, and shew your selves to be of a good understanding, fearing God, and hating Cruelty; if you will not look into the *Royal Law of God*, and *do to us and all men, as you would have us and all men do to you*: But if you will suffer us to fall into the hands of our Enimies, whose *very mercies are cruelties*, and you stand by, and rejoyce at our calamity: if you will not while you have *Power*, be a bridle to the Wicked, nor rebuke this *Exalted Spirit*, that seeks to raise and enrich it self in the Ruines of the Lord's people, but give your Consent and Countenance to the Wicked in their Cruelties against us; if you will stop your ears at the cry of the Righteous, and suffer our Adversaries to oppress us all the day long, and plough great furrows upon our backs, and make our Afflictions grievous to be born;

Then know this assuredly, The Lord will remember the afflictions of *Joseph*, and though our Brethren sell us into the hands of the *Egyptians*, and intend our utter Ruine: though you and they in your secret Contrivances and Imaginations devise mischief in your Beds against us, yet the Righteous God will not forsake us, he will stand by us in all our troubles, and his blessing upon us, his presence with us, his comfort to us, nor you, nor any Mortal can take from us. In all our sufferings he is, and will be with us, and in his due time he will work deliverance for us, and in the mean he will support us in all our Tribulations, he will fill our hearts with joy, when the hearts of the wicked shall faile them; he cannot forsake his own: He will fill us with Divine Wisedom, and give us Courage to bear all the Wrongs and Injuries which the Wicked shall be suffered to lay upon us: he will arm us sufficiently with his patience, and give us such *Spiritual weapons* as shall *wound the Head* and *Heart* of the *Wicked*: The innocency of our Sufferings shall kindle a Fire in the Hearts of our Adversaries, that shall burn like an Oven, and shall not be quenched.

The more you strive to suppress the Truth by persecuting those who live in it, the more shall Truth prevail and prosper: And if you should seek to fill all the Prisons in the Nation with us, or to take away that from us, which is not dear unto us, if the God of our Life requite it of us: For *We*, our *Life*, our *Goods*, our *All*, is freely given up unto our God when he requires them of us. We can in his *Strength* glory over your *Weakness*, and in the height of your Fury we fear you not; We know him to be with us, who is greater than he that is against us, and He will not faile us in the time of our greatest need.

That way you think to Raise (our selves) and Ruine us, shall be the

Ruine of your selves; that very Way shall Deliverance come out of *Sion* to the *Captive SEED*. For alas poor men! you strive not onely against us, but you contend against your Maker; *the God of Israel* is engaged with us, he fights our battels for us; for he *is within us, then why should we fear what man can do against us*? Did ever any of *Cain's Brood* (you are no better who ere ye be, if you join with the *Beast* and *false Prophet* against the *Lamb* prosper long in their afflicting of God's People? Why should you wilfully throw away the *Mercies* of your *Maker*? Are you able to contend with him? or did ever any strive against him, that were not broken and confounded by him?

If you can pluck *God Omnipotent* and *Eternal* from his *Throne*, and *raze his Witness* out of your *own hearts*, and utterly *extinguish his searching, shining Light* in your *own*, and the *Peoples Consciences*; Then may you go on in your persecuting of the Saints, and challenge the *Peace of God* to be your *Portion*: But if not, What is *Man* that he should *Vye* thus with his *Maker*? Therefore be perswaded yet while the *Light of God* does shine in your hearts, to be guided by it; least for your disobedience to it, the *Lord God Omnipotent*, the *Lyon of the Tribe of Iudah*, (who now suffers as a *Lamb within you*) Arise in his Fury, and put on Strength; if he Roar out of *Sion*, he will make all the beasts in the field to tremble; he will be dreadfull to the Wicked. If you persist in your Impenitencie, Cruelty and Hard-heartedness, and seek to dye your selves in the blood of the Innocent---------- Then know this assuredly from the Lord, *The Righteous God will visite you for your iniquity, the Bloodthirsty men shall not live out halfe their daies*: *A short work will the Lord make in the Earth*: *Vengeance, Vengeance, from the Lord God, shall speedily overtake you, though we forgive you, and never lift up a hand against you, the Dreadfull God in his Terrible wrath, will be avenged on you, you shall all surely, surely perish, both TOY and your KING.* The LORD hath spoken it.

O that Men would yet let the Fear of God take place in their hearts, it would deliver them out of the Snares of the *Cunning hunter*, who continually *goes about like a roaring Lyon, seeking whom he may devour*. O that men would once learn to be wise, & cease from their worldly wisdom, and seek after God's pure wisdom, which is only found and obtained in the Light. Surely they might do well to take heed unto his Light which shines in their hearts, which secretly reproves all the deeds of Darkness, and would draw them from *Iniquity* unto *Holiness*; from *Pride*, into *pure Humility*; and from under *the power of Satan*, *unto God*: But this is the Misery and Condemnation of the World, *That Light is come into the world, and men love Darkness rather than Light, because their Deeds are evil*. 'Tis but now, as it was ever; The *Seed of the Serpent* cannot love, or be at peace with the *Seed of life*: For *TRVTH* ever bears its Testimony against the World, *That the Wayes, Customs, Worship and Traditions thereof, are evil*:

And that's the reason why the *Heathens rage*, and the cause of the Enmity between the two Seeds, even from the time of Righteous *Abel*, to this day. Search the Scripture, and there you may find plentiful proof of this true Assertion.

Never did the Light of the Gospel since the Primitive Times, shine in more purity then now it does. Never had the Lord a people since the dayes of the Apostles, who walked more innocently and inoffensively as to God and Man, than he hath raised up, and manifested in this Generation; And never did any people, who made so large a Profession of God and Godlinesse, as the Priests and Professors do at this day, that ever manifested more Enmity, Malice and Opposition against the Innocent for the *Hat* and the *Knee*, *Thee* and *Thou*, and such like things, than these men do at this day. Oh wonderfull! that men who pretend to such a height of Profession, should be so dark, so sottish, & have so little understanding in the *Mystery of God's Kingdom*, at this time of the day, when Truth hath gained so much ground in the Nation, as all the strength of *Antichrist* shall not be able to recover one foot thereof from the Lamb, and his true followers in the Warfare against the Beast. Oh! I am wounded, I am wounded to see the Wickedness of the Wicked, to see the Beast and false Prophet boast it self in its own strength, and thus Triumphingly exalt his Horn against the Heritage of God, and vaunt as if he were not to be moved; to see the undermining subtilty of the old Serpent, seeking the lives of all the Innocents in these Nations, only because *Truth* cannot feed *Deceit*, nor put into the Mouth of the false Prophet, but reproves sin in the Gate, and makes Spiritual War against the Man of Sin: because in the living Power and Authority of the Eternal God, it reproves Pride, Covetousness, Lust, Wantonness, Swearing, Revenge, and makes war against the *Drunkards of Ephraim*: Because it upholds not the Devil's Kingdome for term of life, but preaches up the Hope of Glory, the power of the living God in his People to be all-sufficient to destroy and put an end to the Divels works; this makes the Divels roar, and increases the rage of Antichrist and his Adherents against the followers of the Lamb, and makes the Brats of Pride gnaw their very tongues for madness, because the Sons of Meekness dare not in awe to God bow to that exalted Spirit, or feed the Beast with flattering Titles.

Tell me you that are well read in Histories, if ever you found any Pagans or Christians (so termed) since the foundation of the world, that ever persecuted an *Innocent people* for wearing their *upper Garments*, which God hath given them to be a covering for their Head, and for using the Language which Christ the Lip of truth, and all his Lambs ever used one to another; yea, which all Nations under the Heaven in the Rudiments of Teaching, use for a *Foundation*: O that men should be so void of the Fear and Dread of the Living God, as to suffer their hearts to be so filled with fury against the harmless Flock, who lifts not up a Carnal Weapon against their Enemies! What is your meaning to hatch

hatch this Mischief against them, thus earnestly, to seek so subtilly to destroy them.

What evil, Ah! what evil (O thou Enemy to the righteous God) do'st thou know by his Lambs? In the fear of the Lord I challenge thee to declare it to them, if thou canst, either in Doctrine, Life, or Conversation. How often have thy dreaming Priests attempted to impeach the one, and the Serpents eye watched over them for the other? And how often have they been foiled, and their eyes even failed and grown dim, and wearied themselves with their watching for our halting? How hath the righteous God confounded their wisdom, and driven it backward, and poured shame and contempt upon them for their portion? How many have perished in their foolish expectation of the fall of the Righteous! How often, yea how wonderfully hath the Lord stopt the mouth of these greedy dumb dogs, who never have enough, and silenced both Priests and people, professors and profane, even by his Babes and Sucklings, who are nourisht at the breasts of his consolation, and drink at the water of life freely, and can now no longer like foolish children, dabble in the dirty pools of the polluted Priests of the Nation, nor buy their lying Mrechandizes any more. So that now for want of just matter of accusation against them, they are fain to flye to their old Refuge of Lyes, subtil Inventions, false Accusations to ensnare the Innocent touching the things of their God, wherein the Serpent knows they dare not violate the Law of their God in the least, or act the Hypocrites part, to save his Head, and lose his Soul: And therefore they run to their rotten Laws*, never constituted by God nor approved of by Man who liveth in his fear, to be a snare to the honest-hearted: And would but you Rulers of this Nation do to these Innocent Ones as you could have all men do to you, the persecuting seed wou'd not for these things harm one Saint. But the will of the righteous God is worthy to be done, who in his due time will sweep away the refuge of Lyes, which the wicked one fathers upon Christ's Flock.

* *Oaths of Allegiance and Supremacy, Oath of Abjuration,*

Hast not thou O *ENGLAND*, in the time of thy late troubles, had large Experience of the Innocency of these people? Have they ever had a hand in any plots or conspiracies against thy Governours? (though often falsly accused:) Let God's Witness arise, and it wil give in true Evidence on the behalf of the Innocent; for I bear them record in the Name of the Lord, they are a harmless, and a peaceable people, (those called *QUAKERS*, who live in the life of truth, professed by them) and seeks not the life of any, nor desires any harm in their hearts to their very Enemies.

They cannot confederate, nor never could (since they came into the life of the Lamb) with this or that part against any Government; but were ever counted as Sheep for the slaughter, and many of them have deeply suffered for Conscience-sake, as is sufficiently known to

many

many thousands in the Nation, but more now of late then ever.

O *England*! *England*! Art thou so drunk with iniquity, so blinded with mad Zeal, Art thou grown so fond of *Romish* trumperies, that thou wilt needs quarrel and fall out with thy surest friends, and not be satisfied without the blood of the Innocent? I bear them record, they are the choicest, the very best of thy real Friends, and the purest Gold that is current in thy Kingdom.

Canst thou not bear with the tenderness of their Consciences? There is not a people in the Nation (I am bold to speak it) that would so freely give toleration to tender Consciences, as they would do: Thou allowest some Grains (I well know) to thy Gold; and why not a little lawful Liberty to a truly tender Conscience? Why wilt thou offer to urge an Oath upon them? God's Witness in all Consciences knows their *Yea* and *Nay* is as binding unto them, as all the Oaths and Bonds of the best of thy Inhabitants beside them. And why dost thou, O *Supreme Power*, imprison, or suffer any to be imprisoned or disquieted for working in their Calling upon those called Saints days? Is this the toleration thou intendest to allow to tender Consciences? O! What's become of the word of a King?

And tell me now, O ye men in Authority, and all sober-minded people, if passion be down, and prejudice removed? What is that O man, in thee (whatsoever thou art) high or low, rich or poor, that is offended because the honest-hearted bows not with his body to it, or stands not bare without his Hat before it? Or frets and fumes like a Fool, or a Fellow new come out of *Bedlam*, if a man do but speake proper *English* to him, *Thee* or *Thou* to a single person?

Is it the Babe of Humility, or the Seed of pride that is so soon puft up into passion, that sometimes to an affectionate kind word, it answers discourteously with blows or bussetings?

Oh *England*! *England*! When wilt thou come into the Humility? When will thy Malice cease against the Innocent, and thy furious folly find an end? When wilt thou leave persecuting thy own bowels?

Not so long as the Beast and false Prophet have dominion over thee; not till thee Righteous God awaken thee with his Judgements: And verily, O *England*, 'tis time that thy Governors knew, thou ripens fast, thou art fattening for Destruction, while thou licks up that which formerly thou vomited, and canst now conform [though with gripings in thy Conscience] to *Popery* and *Popish Prelates*, and persecute the Saints in prison for not submitting to thy *Popish Festivals*.

Oh whither are you wheeling, you great Counsellors of the Kingdom! O *England*! *England*! wouldst thou not even drink the very dregs of *Popery*, if the Lord would try thee? But he hath a Cup for thee to drink, which will awaken thee; he hath Arrows in his Quiver that will wound thee to the heart, and lay thy persecuting Headpieces in the dust, though the Innocent lift not a hand against them.

The

The righteous God will plead the Cauſe of his people, he will ſuddenly ſmite the ſtiff-necked and ſtout-hearted, that ſay of his Son, the Light of the world, *Nolumus hunc Regnare, We will not have this man to Rule over us*: He will make the fat Bulls of *Bashan* roar; he will make the Beaſt feeble in his ſinews, yea as weak as water.

Down goes the Beaſt and the blind Guides together, and they that are willing to be deluded by them, who make war againſt the Innocent: An irrecoverable wound ſhall the wicked receive, and then ſhall they know the evil they have done in outſtanding the day of their Viſitation, and helping on the miſeries and afflictions of God's people.

UNto Thee, O Lord God Omnipotent, do we commit our Cauſe; Thou Lord knoweſt the Integrity of thy choſen ones: Thou ſees we have no other Help in Heaven but Thee, and that there is none in all the Earth from whom we can expect deliverance, but from Thee; Thy Mercies are ſure to thy Righteous Seed, and thy Compaſſions can never fail, nor be ſeparated from it.

This is our Stay, this is our Comfort, O Thou God of all Conſolation, Thou art with us, Thy love is to us, Thy Preſence is amongſt us, and thy All-ſufficient Power is felt and witneſſed within us: Thy everlaſting loving-kindneſs (which compaſſes us about) no Mortals can take from us. Glory, glory unto Sion's King for ever.

Lincoln the 7*th*. day
of the 11. Month
called, *January*.

M. M.

The End.